

# BAY PLAYERS

## "A THOUSAND CLOWNS"

By Everett Marston

For its 23rd production The Bay Players of Duxbury will present "A Thousand Clowns" in the DHS auditorium on May 13 and 14. Director will be Robert Anderson, current president of the organization.

The Bay Players has followed a pattern of evolution common among community theater groups in this country. In the spring of 1958 public school teachers Donald Prigge, Lawrence Dunn, Richard Woodsum, Roger Jarvis, Donald Fowke, Rodney Wood, Hugh Cronister and Irene Sherwood, supplemented by a few interested fellow citizens, produced Samuel Taylor's gay comedy "The Happy Time" for a two-night run. Stimulated by success and optimism the group elected officers and established the policy of two productions a year.

Some of the plays used since 1956 have been such well tried favorites of the professional and amateur stage as "Harvey," "The Mousetrap," "George Washington Slept Here," "Blithe Spirit," "The Torch Bearers," "Ladies in Retirement," "The Pleasure of His Company," "Philadelphia Story." Others, notably Barrie's "Dear Brutus" and Shaw's "Arms and the Man," are not often seen in the amateur theater. Still others have made heavy demands on the resources of acting, staging, and directing: "The Teahouse of the August Moon," "The Little Foxes," "Visit to A Small Planet," "Come Back, Little Sheba," and "Lillom."

### THE AIMS

On the premise that a major value of a community theater is self-expression through experience and enjoyment, Bay Players personnel has been varied and flexible. Some people have contributed to one production and then have disappeared, sometimes from town; (the reviews were THAT bad, Everett? -- Ed.); others have circulated from the prompter's box to the paint bucket to the

treading of the boards.

Stage direction, a roadblock to some amateur groups, has been rotated among 11 members. Lawrence Dunn and Chad Maurer, seasoned hands at directing, staging, lighting, and acting, have directed six plays each. The others, doing one or two plays each, have been Robert Hale, Hugh Cronister, Everett Marston, Miriam Vendeveere, JoAnn Collins, Robert Anderson, Harriet Marston, Betty Andrews, Lynne MacDonald.

### THE PLAYERS

Casts have sometimes been completed by last-minute beating of the Duxbury bushes, but competent and dependable members who have acted repeatedly include Roberta Cutler, Natalie Goodrich, Joseph Williams, Lynne MacDonald, Steven Loring, Sue Carpenter, Bette and Peter Burnham, Rick Flanagan, Walter Kennedy, Robert McCormick, Harriet Marston, David Siegenthaler, Frances Stone. Other repeaters are LaVerne Redlon, who has handled make-up for all productions, assisted by Mary Eddy and Love Butterworth, and Charles Urllass, active in 18 productions in positions ranging from technical director to stage carpenter.

### EXPERIMENTS

Although the Players have followed traditional dramatic lines, they have done some experimenting. "Night Must Fall," "Miranda," and "The Solid Gold Cadillac" were done in the round, on the floor of the old high school gymnasium. "Blithe Spirit" was acted against a non-realistic setting.

Monthly meetings between productions feature dramatic bits by members -- readings from "Cyrano de Bergerac," "A Doll's House," "John Brown's Body," the one-act plays "The Marriage Proposal," "Overtones," "The Rhinoceros," "The Bald Soprano," "Zoo Story," and short plays and skits written by members.

As a non-profit organization The Bay Players tries only to avoid deficit spending. The small surplus from some productions has been used for permanent scenery and back-stage equipment, used also for high school dramatics, and a gift of drama books to the DHS Library in memory of Miss Jan Williams, one of the presidents of the group.

In 1964 a summer production, "The Marriage-go-round," was tried with enough success to warrant the 1968 summer offerings of three one-acters -- Tennessee Williams "Mooney's Kids Don't Cry," Yeats' "The Cat and the Moon," Peter Shaffer's "The Public Eye."

As it moves into its second decade, The Bay Players can take satisfaction in a substantial production record, a limited but consistent audience from Duxbury and neighboring towns, and a level of accomplishment reflected by the comment of Kent Fields of the Quincy Patriot Ledger on "The Glass Menagerie" -- "artfully staged and ably performed."

## GAS CO. REPORT

In an interim report mailed along with dividend checks to holders of common stock of Brockton Taunton Gas Company, the company reported that earnings for the first two months of 1966 "continued the favorable trend discussed in our Annual Report for 1965."

Net income increased, per share earnings on common stock and operating revenues were both up, which according to the company, reflected increased sales to commercial and industrial customers.

The interim report also noted that "area building and construction activity... continued to move forward at a healthy rate."

## AROUND TOWN

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Cope of Summer St. celebrated her birthday anniversary on April 7.

Mrs. Stanley Merry returned from the hospital last week.

John Roberson, senior editor of Holiday Magazine, was a guest Saturday of the Richard Patricks of Powder Point.

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